



# East Side Circulator



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Circulator?**

The East Side Circulator is designed to safely and effectively transport youth in Dayton's Bluff and Payne Phalen to and from youth programming. It is one important piece in creating a neighborhood infrastructure that supports youth learning.

The East Side Circulator is actually two bus routes; one in Dayton's Bluff and one in Payne-Phalen. They connect at the YMCA for an easy transfer. The Circulator encourages young people to learn in many different locations throughout their neighborhood. It helps youth to expand their number of positive relationships, and gives them a sense that their community is place where they have many opportunities to learn and grow. The Circulator shifts the focus from organization or program-specific transportation to a vision of holistic transportation throughout a neighborhood.

### **When does the Circulator run?**

Tuesdays and Thursdays from October 7 through mid-May between 3:00pm and 6:00pm.

### **What about school-off days or days without school?**

The Circulator does NOT run when school is not in session, both for scheduled holidays and cancellations due to weather.

### **Is there a cost?**

No. The Circulator is free to young people. The Circulator is funded through a Minnesota Department of Education After School Community Learning grant that also funds other East Side Learning Collaborative initiatives. Many community partners also provide in-kind support to the Circulator.

### **Who can ride?**

Any youth between the ages of 7 and 18 can ride. Children requiring a car seat may not ride. Those under 7 years of age can be accompanied by a family member 13 years old or older. Parents are welcome to accompany their child.

### **What do young people need to do to be able to ride?**

Before being allowed to ride the Circulator, a parent or guardian must complete and sign a registration form for each young people wishing to ride the Circulator. This form ensures that parents consent to their children's use of the Circulator, clearly lays out the community's expectations for Circulator riders, and provides us with important contact information in the case of an emergency.

### **What do I do with registration forms?**

You will be given a stack of registration forms that you can distribute to children in your programs. When they bring these completed forms back you may give them a bus pass. Please use a Sharpie to write each child's name on their pass before giving it to them. Also write the name of your organization in the upper left hand corner in the office use only box. Please stress the importance of carrying their pass since they will not be allowed to ride without it. Once you have a substantial number of completed forms or if you need more or have questions, please email [Circulator@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Circulator@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or call Catherine Eichers Penkert at 651-266-6422 so we can collect them to be kept on file with the Circulator Coordinator.

## Circulator Frequently Asked Questions, continued

### **Can children ride without a bus pass?**

Normally, no. Children MUST carry their pass with them to ride. The first time a child gets on a bus they can ride without a completed registration form if they have not been given one before. They will have to have the form filled out to ride the next time.

### **Is the Circulator safe?**

The Circulator is a well marked school bus. There is a 18-21 year old Youth Job Corps worker on each bus to ensure the safety of the children on the bus as well as the experienced bus driver. Additionally, children must follow these rules:

- Follow all instructions from the driver
- You must have a destination when you get on the bus
- Respect other riders: keep hands and feet to yourself and do not distract the driver
- Keep the bus clean – no writing or destroying seats, walls, etc.
- Respect others' personal property
- Use an indoor voice (no yelling & shouting)
- No boom boxes; no loud music or noise
- Use appropriate language at all times (no curse words)
- No cigarettes, drugs or alcohol
- No weapons allowed

### **This is a great neighborhood resource! How can my organization help keep it running?**

- Encourage your youth participants to ride.
- Use the Circulator for program field trips within the neighborhood.
- Distribute registration forms along with your program registration information.
- Check on the bus when it stops at your organization. Meet the drivers and YJC workers – they are very friendly!
- Participate in East Side Learning Collaborative meetings.

### **Contact Information**

During Circulator hours please call the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center at 651-793-3885 to reach the Circulator Coordinator or other Rec Center staff. If you have any questions or concerns please email [Circulator@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Circulator@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or contact Catherine Eichers Penkert at 651-266-6422.